

BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND

CATEGORY II: PLANNING PROJECT FUNDING

Program Explanation

This program is designed to aid in the development of good paying jobs for residents and promote long-term, stable economic growth in Montana. It has two distinct methods for achieving this goal. The first is through job creation funding (Category I) which receives 75% of the funding and the second is through planning projects (Category II) which receive 25% of the funding. This information sheet details the Category II program – Planning Projects.

Type of Assistance

- ★ Category II: Planning activities that aid in business development as well as economic development planning



Eligible Applicant & Beneficiary

- ★ One of the following entities must apply for the funding (as well as administer awarded funds) on behalf of an eligible business:
 - Certified Regional Development Corporations (CRDCs), for projects located within a CRDC region
 - Tribal governments
 - Other economic development organizations, which are located in a county that is not part of a CRDC region: Flathead, Richland, Lincoln, Ravalli and Missoula counties have been designated by the Department as meeting program eligibility requirements

How to Apply

- ★ Application guidelines and forms are found on the BSTF website www.bstf.mt.gov

Use of Proceeds

Eligible economic development planning activities include, but are not limited to:

- ★ Support for Business Improvement Districts
- ★ Central Business District Redevelopment
- ★ Industrial Development
- ★ Feasibility Studies
- ★ Creation and Maintenance of Baseline Community Profiles
- ★ Matching Funds for Federal Funds



Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund – Category II: Planning Project Funding (cont.)

Limits

- ★ Recommended limits \$10,000 - \$25,000 per application

Reporting Requirements

- ★ Quarterly reports are due for each year the contract is open, or with a request for reimbursement of funds

Application Timeline

- ★ Applications are accepted on an open-cycle basis until all available funds are committed

Examples of Funded Projects

- ★ Kalispell Rail Park Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) - \$26,250
- ★ Fort Peck Tribes Strategic Plan - \$26,250
- ★ Red Lodge Mountain Transit System Feasibility Study - \$37,350
- ★ Blue Marble Biomaterials (Missoula) Expanded Business Plan - \$8,850
- ★ Butte Silver Bow YMCA Building Engineering Cost Feasibility Study - \$26,250



Funding Source

(MCA 90-1-2) House Bill 249 was passed by the 59th Legislature and on July 1, 2005, \$20 million was transferred from the coal severance tax permanent fund to the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF). In addition, a portion of the total coal severance taxes collected annually is deposited into the BSTF.

Interest earnings only, not principal, from the BSTF are available for financial assistance to local governments and economic development organizations through application to the Department of Commerce.

Program Contact

Nancy Faroni, Section Manager
nfaroni@mt.gov ★ (406) 841-2744

www.bstf.mt.gov

